

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Iraq

SUBJECT Communist Splinter Parties

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] preliminary interrogation of the Communists arrested in northern Iraq between 11-20 November 1949 revealed that this group represented the "Nijamah" or "Star" Party, a splinter of the Iraqi Communist Party. The Star Party was established after the arrest and dissolution of the Fourth Central Committee of the Communist Party on 4 April 1949.

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2. [REDACTED] the Star Party was formed because its leader, Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir, felt that no leader should give too much authority to a party member, nor allow any member to have as wide a knowledge of party affairs as was allowed to Malik Sa'if* by Yusuf Salman Yusuf, former leader of the Iraqi Communist Party. [REDACTED] 'Abd-al-Qadir was not arrested in the recent police raids in the north, and that, although his whereabouts are not known, the CID believes him to be in Baghdad and expects to arrest him soon.

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3. [REDACTED] the Star Party issues a handwritten leaflet monthly. This leaflet, written on flimsy paper of various sizes, is distributed only to members of the group, and is delivered to them by hand. Copies of three of the four issues written since the formation of the Party are in the hands of the CID.

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4. [REDACTED] another splinter party, Al-Ittihad, or the Union Party, has been formed in northern Iraq as a result of differences of opinion over the allocation of Communist Party authority after the arrest of the Fourth Central Committee. [REDACTED] although little is known about the composition or leadership of this group at the present time, there is no cooperation between the Nijamah and Al-Ittihad groups.

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* Comment. A fortuitous defection of another member of the Party in October 1948 led to the apprehension by the CID of Malik Sa'if, who was at that time the head of the Central Committee of the secret Communist Party of Iraq. Sa'if then turned State's evidence and his confession led to the apprehension of the rest of the Central Committee, the Party press, and virtually all the records of the Party.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. The old National Union Party (Hizb al-Ittihad al-Watani) had merged with the People's Party (Hizb al-Sha'ab) to form the People's Union Party, which was one of the five recognized parties of the post-war period until it was disbanded as being a threat to the public security, on 29 September 1947.

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